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# The Corporation of The City of London
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Fluoride Back in London's Water

After a short interruption, the City of London's water once again contains fluoride. After its normal supplier advised that they were unable to fill an order in September, the City was able to find an alternate supplier.

"We're very pleased to have found an alternate supplier of fluoride and that our disruption was for a short time only," said Pat McNally, Director - Water Environment & Customer Relations. "The fluoridation equipment at the Arva Pumping Station was brought back online last Friday, September 28, after being turned off September 3, 2007."

The demand for fluoride has recently exceeded supply, resulting in shortages, particularly in summer months when municipal water use increases. The majority of North American fluoride production occurs in the southeastern United States; with many facilities suffering damage during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Other municipalities, including Ottawa and Edmonton have also experienced interruptions this summer.

The target level where fluoride is being added to drinking water is 0.5 - 0.8 mg/L (milligrams per litre) as recommended by both the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and the Middlesex-London Health Unit. Fluoridation of London's drinking water occurs by the controlled addition of Hydrofluorosilicic Acid ($H_2SiF_6$).

"We're very pleased that the City of London has been able to secure a supply of fluoride that will continue to meet the community's needs," says Dr. Neil Farrell, Director of Dental Services, Middlesex-London Health Unit. "The fluoridation of municipal water in London is important for cavity prevention in our community."

Other disruptions remain a possibility but are more likely in the late summer when the water industry's peak demands occur. The City will continue to monitor sources of fluoride to ensure continued supply.

Fluoridation of drinking water has occurred in London for over 40 years to promote dental health. Fluoridation is supported by Health Canada, the Canadian Public Health Association and both the Canadian Dental and Medical Associations. The World Health Organization (WHO) also supports water fluoridation and the US. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) selected water fluoridation as one of the ten most important public health initiatives of the 20th century.